USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Current Developments

*NRCS Quarterly Newsletter* *Summer 2001*

## New Hampshire NRCS Receives $506,300 for Farmland Protection

The agricultural base in New Hampshire is a little safer thanks to an NRCS program. $506,300 in Farmland Protection Program (FPP) funding was awarded on June 15 to help three New Hampshire farms continue to farm. These FPP funds matched with local funds, will help families and communities preserve the State's rural character that we all enjoy.

The following offers have been made by NRCS to protect 536.5 acres of farmland for future generations:

Sunnycrest Farms, Concord
Allen H. Britton Farm, Lyme
Corneliusen Orchard, Derry
Limperis Farm, Epping

"We had a lot of great proposals," says Richard Babcock, State Conservationist for New Hampshire NRCS. In finalizing the NH FPP Advisory Committee's recommendation, he said "we can really see that people and communities are mobilizing to protect our resources and maintain open working lands in New Hampshire."

Senator Judd Gregg commented that "these grant awards are great news not only for the people of the surrounding communities affected by these grants, but for the effort to protect New Hampshire's farmlands across the state. I was pleased to be involved with the award for the Sunnycrest Orchard as it has long been a key part of our state's agricultural and environmental heritage, and today's announcement represents a major step towards preserving it for future generations. The Trust for Public Land, the Friends of the orchard, and the Concord Conservation Commission deserve our thanks for all the work they have done so far on this vital project."

> **"These grant awards are great news not only for the people of the surrounding communities affected by these grants, but for the effort to protect New Hampshire's farmlands across the state."**
> **Senator Judd Gregg**

"Productive farmland and working farms are disappearing at a rapid rate in New Hampshire," said U.S. Representative Charles Bass. "These grants will help ensure that family farms remain an

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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

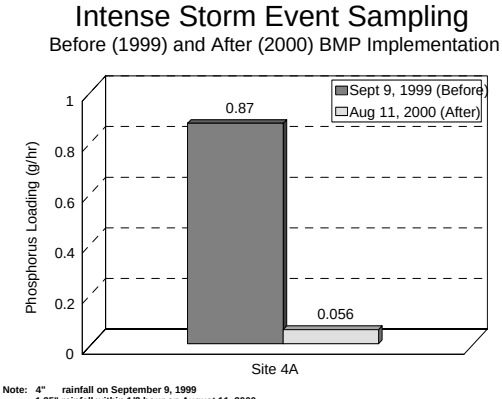


## Measures of Success

***The Evidence is in on the Water Quality Improvement in Chocorua Lake***

With natural resources problem solving, success often requires patience. However, in the case of Chocorua Lake, the results have been nearly immediate. After twenty years of water quality decline, Chocorua Lake is well on its way to recovery.

The graph to the right illustrates the reduction of phosphorus input after Phase I of the Chocorua Lake Water Quality Improvement Project. Phase I —best management practices (BMPs) including berms, swales, and settling basins along Route 16 in Tamworth — was completed last summer.




The lake had been susceptible to phosphorus inputs from the runoff and sediments from the road. With the installation of BMPs, the phosphorus loading during heavy rain

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## Letter from the State Conservationist

Summer has begun, and we are in the middle of another busy and productive field season. As usual, we are being drawn in many different directions. With limited resources, attempting to accomplish the work we are expected to do and meeting the requests of those who ask for assistance can be a challenge to us all. Because of this we must all be good managers of our time. Mandated programs such as EQIP and WHIP, must be delivered in a timely manner. This year we will also have the new programs of AMA and SWCA which need our attention.

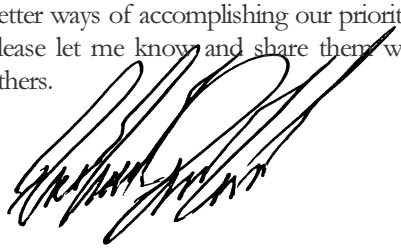
As an agency, we must also insure a technically strong NRCS in the future. Certification of Conservation Planners will involve a good deal of effort by all of us. Individual training must be accomplished and planning ability must be demonstrated.

We must maintain our reputation as a technical agency. The Field Office Technical Guide, our technical backbone, must be kept up to date with the most current level of knowledge. This will involve input from many individuals both in and outside NRCS. This effort will be critical to provide our customers with the level of technical expertise they have come to expect.

> **"We must maintain our reputation as a technical agency."**
>
> **Richard Babcock, NH State Conservationist**

We also have more local strategic goals, which address the priority resource concerns in NH. These items are part of the "contract" we have made with Congress and the American people. It is imperative that we accomplish these goals. Not only are these goals important for us to achieve in protecting natural resources, but they also provide the sideboards that should focus our daily activities.

Let me say that the longer I work here the more impressed I become with the work ethic and skills of our employees. If you see better ways of accomplishing our priorities please let me know and share them with others.



## Reading the River

***By Greg Smead, NRCS Planning Engineer***

**Fluvial Geomorphology workshop participants do hands-on learning during the June training.**

NH NRCS sponsored a Fluvial Geomorphology Workshop June 11-15, 2001 in Concord. About twenty-five people attended, representing NRCS (NH, ME, and VT), Belknap County Conservation District, NH Department of Fish and Game, and the NH Department of Environmental Services. Lyle Steffen, Geologist, from the NRCS National Soil Survey Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, was the workshop instructor. Lyle conducts several similar workshops throughout the country each year.

Fluvial Geomorphology is the study of how natural streams work. The objectives of this introductory workshop included: (1) understanding how streams work; (2) identifying stable and unstable streams; (3) identifying causes of streambank erosion; (4) applying the Schumm Channel Evolution Model; applying the Rosgen Stream Classification System; and (5) understanding when and where vegetation is appropriate for bank stabilization. The workshop consisted of classroom instruction and hands-on practice at field sites. NH NRCS would like to thank all who helped with this workshop including NH DES for classroom arrangements and to NH Department of Fish and Game for providing morning refreshments.

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economically viable component of the state. Furthermore, I am happy to play a small role in the awarding of these grants, which will help maintain the quality of life for which New Hampshire is famous."

"We are working hard in New Hampshire to protect our open spaces and our state's rural character. Protecting our working farmland is critical to the success of that effort. New Hampshire has a long tradition of farming, but it is a tradition that many family farmers are struggling to continue. As a result, farmlands are among the most vulnerable of our open spaces," Gov. Jeanne Shaheen said. "These conservation easements will help make it financially possible for families to keep their farms as working agricultural operations, protecting open space, ensuring New Hampshire a local food supply and preserving an important part of our heritage."

Local entities that hold the agricultural easements for these farms rely on other programs such as FPP for matching funds. Although programs like FPP can provide much needed funds, the success of sustaining agriculture in New Hamp-

*(Continued on page 3)*

***NRCS Engineering Assistance:***

## Helping Make It Right

The Baker River Watershed Association (BRWA) has selected a demonstration site for innovative streambank stabilization techniques. This project is part of the ongoing effort to protect the river and the watershed.

The project will include bendway weirs, which are unique to New Hampshire, along with "Streamco" willow fascines, and rip-rap. Ed Hansalik, NRCS Conservation Engineer has designed the project with survey assistance from Nick Comerci, Emily Armstrong, and then Grafton County Conservation District (GCCD) Manager Cathy Dingman. Approximately 650 linear feet of badly eroding streambank will be protected, using both standard and bioengineering methods.

This Wentworth property, owned by Kevin Mack, is one of four severely eroding sites chosen by the towns of Warren, Wentworth, Rumney, and Plymouth. A prior survey had identified 231 erosion and deposition problems along the 28 mile section of the Baker River, and these towns were asked to use the survey to select their top priority site. BRWA then selected the Mack property for their demonstration.

This project is a good example of partners rallying around a shared resource concern. Funding for the previous survey and for the engineering demonstration came partially from a NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) Section 319 Grant.. These grants were obtained for BRWA by the GCCD with the assistance of Eric Williams of DES. And, with NRCS providing the engineering expertise, these landowners, towns, and other locals will have a healthier river.

**For more information on this project, contact GCCD at (603) 747-2001**

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shire depends on many people and partners. Richard Babcock leads NH NRCS with a commitment to this partnership in New Hampshire. "NH NRCS is glad to be a part of maintaining these farms, and we'll do everything we can to help New Hampshire agriculture in the future."

## Two New Programs for Private Land Conservation

Funding is now available for two new programs that are targeted for helping farmers with conservation activities. The Soil and Water Conservation Assistance (SWCA) program and the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) were funded at $145,300 in New Hampshire.

**"Now, with these additional programs, we have a chance to help a few more people with their resource concerns."**

**Richard Babcock, NH State Conservationist**

The goal is to address some of the unmet need for conservation assistance that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has identified through other USDA programs.

"In New Hampshire, there are people that apply for assistance with us, but don't get a chance to implement their conservation plans due to lack of funds," says Richard Babcock, State Conservationist with NRCS. "Now, with these additional programs, we have a chance to help a few more people with their resource concerns."

Although NRCS has leadership for AMA and SWCA, it works with local work groups, County Conservation Districts, an interagency State Technical Committee, and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) to set the program's policies, priorities, and guidelines. Cost-sharing will be 75 percent on certain practices.

**Contact your local NRCS/District office for more information.**

## 2001 Envirothon Winners

May 23 was the date of the 2001 Envirothon, held at New Hampshire College in Manchester. The rain held off for the 27 teams of high school students and they completed their stations in aquatics, soils, nonpoint source pollution, forestry, and wildlife without getting wet.

This year's special topic was on nonpoint source pollution, with the challenge of developing a proposal for improving the water quality of a local pond. The winners of the overall competition this year were:

1st — Keene
2nd — St. Paul's
3rd — Conant

Keene will represent New Hampshire in Mississippi in July.

**Trevor Hardy, of Brookdale Farm in Hollis examines soils at the Envirothon competition on May 23.**

# FROM THE FIELD

## Conservation and Communities—A Great Combination

***Citizens in Sullivan County Install New Hampshire's Largest Buffer***

On May 10-12, citizens of the Plainfield, Unity, Charlestown and other local communities volunteered with the planting of 1300 trees on the land of Pacific Gas and Electric National Energy Group (PG&E) land in Charlestown. This strip of land along the Connecticut River will be New Hampshire's largest buffer installation ever, at 1640 feet long and 120 feet wide. NRCS contributed $5,200 in Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) funds.

Jan Lambert, a local citizen with a background in community involvement, coordinated the workforce. "It's very gratifying to see such a diverse group of people from the community involved." Lambert said on the first day of work.

The 100 person crew was made up of Earth Team Volunteers and included scouts, conservation commission members, homeschoolers, the Sullivan County Conservation District and many others. These volunteers planted 4.5 acres of trees and shrubs, donating approximately 300 hours of time to the project.

Wendy Ward, NRCS Biological Science Technician, designed the riparian buffer according to NRCS specifications with the objective of ecosystem restoration, water quality protection, and farmland protection. Wendy chose the plants for the buffer by replicating the plant species she had observed nearby.

**Joseph Ryan (right) and Matthew Cole of Pacific Gas and Electric plant a tree along the Connecticut River**

The buffer plantings along the edge of cultivated fields included native species such as black willow, red oak, white ash, silver and sugar maple, white pine, silky dogwood, chokeberry, wild raisin, arrowwood, and nannyberry. Grass species, which will be planted next year, include bluestem, gama grass, and switch grass. With this combination of plants, it will blend into the natural riparian ecosystem and be a haven for wildlife along the river.

This project was, and will continue to be, a success due to committed people working together. Early this year, Ken Alton, External Relations Specialist for PG&E, contacted the Sullivan County Conservation District to request assistance in managing 655 acres they own in Charlestown. Once the long range goals and concerns for the property were identified, the District then facilitated meetings between Mr. Alton, NRCS, the Connecticut River Conservation District Coalition, and Jan Lambert.

The results of this partnership effort will be cleaner water, a more stable river bank that reduces farmland loss, increased wildlife habitat, and a beautiful forested buffer along Great Meadows that local people can enjoy.

**For more information, contact the Sullivan County Conservation District at (603) 863-4297 or Wendy Ward at (603) 756-2988.**

**Joy Ryan of Hinsdale gives a newly planted tree a drink during the buffer installation on May 10.**

**Chocorua Lake water quality is finally on the rise.**

*(Continued from page 1)*

events is reduced by 94 percent. This is an enormous decrease, demonstrating the value of correctly designed and adequate BMPs. With additional BMPs in other areas of the lake planned, the water quality will continue to improve.

The final part of Phase I of the project involves road work on the northeast side of Washington Hill. This work will be completed by July, and water quality monitoring will continue through UNH Cooperative Extension Lakes Lay Monitoring Program.

With a strong partnership of citizen groups and agencies working together, these positive results are only the beginning. Chocorua Lake, and the cooperation that is saving it is a model for other lakes around the state that need help.

**For more information on this project, contact the Carroll County Conservation District at (603) 447-2771.**

# PARTNERSHIP AT ITS BEST

## Cornish Farm Receives S.A.R.E. Grant

Brokenridge Farm operated by the Sullivan Family in Cornish has been awarded a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (S.A.R.E.) Program grant for intercropping winter rye with corn silage. This is an experimental practice of seeding winter rye at the same time that nitrogen is added to cornfields.

Research has shown that interseeding produces a greater germination rate and thicker rye stands because of higher carbon dioxide and humidity levels that develop under the corn canopy. This method produces a better winter rye cover crop, and also saves the farmer an additional pass over cornfields with equipment after the silage is chopped.

There are clear environmental benefits to interseeding as well. It reduces the risk of soil compaction from farm equipment., lowers erosion, builds fertility and helps reduce weed pressure in the following season. If the interseeding works, as the Sullivans hope, it will also help the them meet the objectives in their conservation plan.

Once the project is complete, Brokenridge Farm will sponsor a Twilight Walk in coordination with Sullivan County Conservation District (SCCD) and UNH Cooperative Extension and share the results of their project with others in the farming community.

S.A.R.E. Program is a federal competitive grant program with regional leadership and decision-making structures. Authorized by the 1985 Farm Bill, S.A.R.E. was first funded in 1988. FY 2000 funding totals $11.4 million. S.A.R.E. works to increase knowledge about sustainable practices that are profitable, environmentally sound and good for communities and society in general. S.A.R.E. provides funding for research, demonstrations, education and extension projects carried out by scientists, producers, educators and private sector representatives.

**For more information, contact SCCD at (603) 863-4297 .**

## Lower Connecticut River Watershed Assistant

***Taking and Making Partnership Opportunities***

Becky Caswell started work on June 29 as the first Lower Connecticut Watershed Assistant in the NH Department of Environmental Services' State Watershed Corps. The Watershed Corps was made possible through an Americorps program grant sponsored by the NH Association of Conservation Districts and the Lower Connecticut position was made possible through a partnership with the Cheshire County Conservation District. The purpose of the State Watershed Corps is to provide professional assistance to local watershed organizations who typically have no staff and limited budgets. Becky will be working out of the Cheshire County Conservation District office in Walpole under the direction of Deborah Hinman.

Becky graduated in 1998 from Simmons College with a bachelor's degree in Conservation Biology. She has experience as an environmental project manager and a veterinary technician.

Becky's region includes the Connecticut River watershed from Piermont, NH south to the Massachusetts border. She will assist existing river organizations on a variety of projects with the Cold River LAC, the Connecticut River Joint Commissions, the Ashuelot LAC, the Upper Valley Land Trust, the Sugar River Watershed Association, and lots of Connecticut River landonwers.

**Anyone interested in watershed assistance available through the program should contact Becky at rebecca-caswell@nh.nacdnet.org or Deborah Hinman at 756-2988, ext 16, or Eric Williams at the NH DES at 271-2358.**

## Cool, another Soil Tunnel!

Coos County Conservation District (CCCD) has been awarded a Connecticut River Partnership Program grant for $2500 from the Connecticut River Joint Commissions to build another soil tunnel. The soil tunnel concept will be modeled after the one that Marc Sutherland designed and Peter MacDonald helped build. The key improvement of this particular version is it's portability — fold it up, put it in the back of a car and be gone! This tunnel will be taken around to schools on both sides of the Connecticut River to help educate children on the value of soils in protecting their watershed.

**For more information call CCCD at (603) 788-4651.**

# How Much Carbon Can an Ossipee Soil Sequester?

***New Hampshire Soil Scientists Host Ground Penetrating Radar Study on Wet Soils***

The Merrimack-Belknap Soil Survey team spent a week in February on snowshoes with soil scientist Jim Doolittle (NRCS, Pennsylvania). Jim is known for his ground penetrating radar (GPR) work, and came from the National Soil Survey Center to help the soil scientists in New Hampshire gather information on local organic soils.

**Peter Whitcomb, Soil Survey Project Leader, carries the radar unit over a frozen bog with Jim Doolittle behind him collecting the data.**

Organic soils are an important part of the global carbon cycle. The carbon storage capacity of soils is one variable used in many models of global warming. Carbon storage is especially important in saturated conditions, as carbon dioxide can be sequestered (held up) in the inefficient decomposition process that goes on in wetlands.

The objective of this data collection was to assess the thickness of organic materials across typical wetland soil types mapped in the Merrimack-Belknap Soil Survey Update project. The value of this information is important for two key reasons: 1) it will help the MBSS crew with a host of interpretations for these soils as they continue to update the soil mapping and data, and 2) it will provide a clearer picture of the carbon sequestration potential of organic soils in New Hampshire.

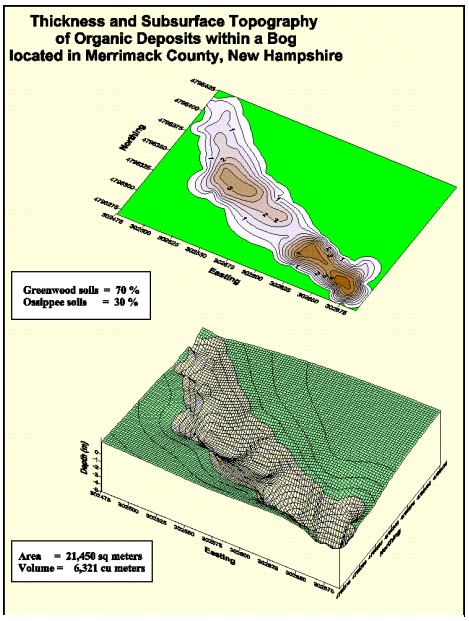
**Don Keirstead, Soil Scientist in Concord, enters flagged data collection points into a GPS unit during the GPR study this winter.**

The GPR method of collecting data on organic soils is extremely efficient and data rich. Radar penetrates different materials at distinct rates, and can therefore depict layers such as snow, ice, organic material, and inorganic substrate. With GPR and adequate calibration, the thickness of organic materials and the type of substrate can be assessed.

The GPR method requires a team to gather the data on a bog or wetland quickly and accurately. Step one is to lay out a sampling grid with flags. Then, these flagged points are entered into a GPS unit (lower left). Then the radar unit is carried over the grid to take readings at predetermined points (left). This is best accomplished when the wetlands are frozen. Calibration of the GPR data is also necessary (lower right).

With all of the data carefully orchestrated, the results are dramatic (upper right). This map depicts the thickness in meters of organic materials in a small bog in Loudon, New Hampshire. Both shallow and deep organic soils (Ossipee soils, 16-51" deep, and Greenwood soils, 51"+ deep respectively) were found within the area.

One important conclusion of the study was that the GPR data were consistent with the soil scientist's assessments during mapping. This agreement demonstrates that the clues the soil scientists use to map these organic soils have been accurate.




**Using GPS and GPR, a map of the depth of the organic material in the bog could be generated. This graph shows how the carbon storage capacity of a bog could be estimated.**

The data collection and verification of soil mapping concepts is a critical piece of the soil mapping process. The data collected also clearly highlights the value of soil survey data in assessing carbon sequestration.

**Calibration of the GPR data is necessary to insure the readings accurately represent the natural layers present.**

**For more information, contact Peter Whitcomb, (603) 223-6024.**

## April 2000 - April 2001 Earth Team Volunteers

What a busy year our Earth Team volunteers have had. Since last April, 232 volunteers have donated 5,728.50 hours which equates to $88,161.62 worth of conservation assistance! These dedicated people have worked in our offices, in the field and at home assisting us with mass mailings, data entry, designing brochures, writing newsletters, Celebrate NH, Farm and Forest Expo, Envirothon, manning booths at county ag fairs, the NH Dairy Farms update, WHIP projects, plant sales, soil judging and poster contests, workshops, cultural presentations, conservation tours, Millennium Gardens, setting up displays and erosion control projects just to name a few. Thirty volunteers completed the 6 week Natural Resources Volunteers training and every office used at least one volunteer this past year. A big thank you goes out to each of the following volunteers who were willing to commit their time and talent assisting us in protecting and conserving New Hampshire's natural resources.

Woody Argereow
Bette Babcock
George Bailey
Charisse Baker
Cindy Balcius
Karen Banks
Jon Batson
Vicki Baron
Dottie Bean
Peter Blakeman
Samuel Boduch
Jennifer Bolduc
Christine Boudreau
H. Peter Braen
John Brown
Elizabeth Buckley
Joanne Buckley
Edward Ballam
Brenda Brown
Carla Cantor
Bill Carberry
Mary Caverly
Aaron Chadbourn
Linda Chase
Donald Chesebrough
Chuck Cilley
Claire Clark
Jo Clark
Jim Colby
Joan Colona
Darla Cote
Steve Couture
Dale Dal Pan
Judith Dal Pan
Michael Dannehy
Michael Davis
George Davy
Ashley Defosses
Richard Defosses
Doreen Dempster
Ethel Dennis
Bill Diburro
Sandy Diburro
Brenda Digilio
Cathy Dingman
Vernon Dingman
Gibb Dodge
Joann Dodge
Jim Downing
Bob Drown
Alice Duncan
Bob Eaton
Clair Eaton
Maureen Evleth
Michael Evleth
Barbara Fales
Jennifer Fales
Tammy Fandel
Jon Farcier
Pauline Forst
Linda Frawley
Donna French
Ann Friend
Terry Frost
Ann Fabrizio
Ray Furbish
Michelle Gage
Kelly Gebo
Bruce Gilbert
Lee Grimes
Stan Grimes
Earl Hagstrom
Kareen Hamilton
Diane Hanley
Lynn Hart
Ruth Heden
A. Hillson
Alicia Hilton
Jennifer Holmes
Dawn Hughes
Katie Hughes
Perry Hunkins
Keith Hunt
Lisa Hunt
Velma Ide
Roland Isabelle
Al Johnston
Jillian Jones
Rosemary Kacpryznski
Janice Kelleigh
Patricia Keller
Ted Kelsey
Ann Kimball
Chris Knisley
Solange Knowles
Marianne Komeski
David Konesko
Karen Kuniholm
Sylvie Kurtz
Teresa Lancaster
Julie Landon
Chad Lapierre
Robert Larocque
Francesca Latawiec
Betty Lathrop
Louise Lewis
Rowena Lim
Meredith Lineweber
Margaret Lord
Carol Loughlin
Joannie Macphee
Peter Macdonald
Karen Mattor
Bob Mazolla
Tracy McCloud
Kim McCracken
Nancy Mcgrath
Rob Mcgregor
Mercer Meding
Jim Melfi
Kazuko Mesarry
Kitty Miller
Dennis Monahan
John Moody
Lyle Clayton Moody
James Moore
Matt Mostoller
Yelena Moyers
Marge Muelhke
Shirley Nadeau
Sue Nadeau
Mare Nazaire
Mark Noyes
Virginia Noyes
Dick Obyc
Kurt Olson
Carolyn Page
Gordon Page
Warren Perkins
Madeleine Perron
Sam Perron
Ginny Peterson
Kay Petitt
Jane Pokoski
Ann Poole
O.J. Pratt
Sharon Provencal
Priscilla Puleo
Linda Randolph
Emma Read
Nancy Reed
Thomas Reed
Leslie Roberts
Sue Roberts
Win Robinson
Sean Rohlfing
David Rost
Kathy Rust
Phyliss Rutan
Heather Ryan
Sean Ryan
Cheryl Schlutz
Pat Schmitz
John Scruton
John Scudder
Brenda Sens
Doris Siergiewicz
Janice Smith
Clyde Spooner
Edna Stein
Howard Stevens
Shirley Stokes
Sara Sumner
Janet Surette
Katie Surowiec
Marc Sutherland
Patricia Tarpey
Colleen Thornton
Maureen Todd
Fred Tobey
Donna Travers
George Travers
Allan Turner
Jo-Ann Turner
Nancy Underhill
Dennis Van Alstyne
Werner Vogt
Glen Walsworth
Robert Ward
Bill Warren
John Wastrom
Jim Webber
Jan Welch
Amy White
Becky Whitmeyer
Harriette Whitcomb
Pat Wilder
Keira Wonkka
Bud Wool
Alexander Wong
Becki Wright
Bob Wyman
Christine Young
Deborah Zarembo
Beth Zimmer

Mt Wash. Valley Academy
Eric Burns
Wayne Bellen
Michelle Brown
Tachira Cradock
Jamie Detzer
Amanda Eastman
Tim Grant
Allan Hardy
Cody Harper
Shelli Hart
Brett Lund
Jim McCollum
Dan McDonough
Donnie Moore
Andrew Morrill
Eddie Munro
Katie Packard
Chris Piper
Sarlyn Rice
Brandon Roland
Eric Ross
Anna Solomon
Jon Sutton
Loren Torres
Mike Vincent
Ashlee Weyandt

## Rockingham County Conservation District Announces Poster Contest Winners

The RCCD Poster Contest is open to all grade five students in Rockingham County. Schools submitting posters this year were Rye Elementary School, Pollard School in Plaistow, and Swasey Central School in Brentwood. The posters were displayed in the halls of the Rockingham County Nursing Home where residents and staff enjoyed the artistic talents of the children.

This year's winners are:
from Rye Elementary School – Seth Edward Reynolds, 2nd place & Katie Nadolny, 1st place; from Pollard School – Monica Fuller, 2nd place, Corey Fodin, 1st place; and from Swasey Central School – Ashley Clark, 2nd place, & Sydney Kerkhove, 1st place and Grand Prize Winner!

**For more information on the poster contest or other District activities, contact RCCD at (603) 679-2790.**

## 4th Annual New England Tribal Environmental Training Conference

***By Dick Babcock, NH State Conservationist***

In April I attended the 4th Annual New England Tribal Environmental Conference that was held in Rockport Maine. The Passamaquoddy Tribe on behalf of the New England tribes hosted the conference. At least nine tribes were represented from the New England states.

The conference had a very educational agenda with speakers from the tribes and from many federal agencies. Maine NRCS staff helped facilitate open and panel discussions. Presentations were well prepared and addressed a wide variety of environmental issues.

Evening activities were enjoyable and educational in gaining an insight into the tribal culture. The banquet featured traditional foods including Moose. During the banquet we were able to witness the reverence that is given the tribal elders. It is a ritual that we could all emulate. Later in the evening we were entertained with traditional drumming and dancing.

## Coalition for Conservation and Agricultural Education Formed

On May 31, Food, Land, and People-NH (FLP-NH) held its first statewide Coalition Meeting at SPNHF in Concord. About 30 people from over 15 partners participated.

The centerpiece of the FLP program is the Resources for Learning, a handbook containing 55 lesson plans with titles such as "Cows or Condos?," "Chickens to Omelets," and "From Apple Cores to Healthy Soil." FLP lessons encourage interactive learning. In addition to being easy-to-use, the curriculum handbook is set up to allow educators from a variety of disciplines including math, social studies, language arts, health, art, and science, to teach with an emphasis on agricultural and environmental issues.

Project Food, Land & People - New Hampshire

FLP-NH is being coordinated by Meredith Cooper, an AmeriCorps member sponsored by NHACD. Meredith is working to build a strong coalition of people and agencies committed to promoting good educational principles and the importance of both agriculture and conservation.

In addition bringing the FLP curriculum to NH students, FLP-NH intends for the Coalition to also serve as a forum for members to discuss agricultural and environmental education and related issues in the State. FLP-NH is looking to become the 21st FLP USA State Affiliate.

**For more information contact Meredith Cooper at (603) 223-6023**

## Outreach Program Plan

***2001 Update - The Goal***

The goal of an effective outreach program in New Hampshire is to encourage active participation by all employees (not just the field office personnel that service customers) while simultaneously not adding to the already heavy workload being experienced by employees at all levels. The resulting program should provide measurable results in terms of employee awareness of the importance of Program Outreach. The program should also enable measurable documentation that NRCS programs and conservation operations are reaching every segment of society in New Hampshire including those groups who have been identified on a National basis as having been historically underserved or identified as limited resource customers.

**Supplement to the NH NRCS Civil Rights Program Plan**

## Meet Kim McCracken

***New District Conservationist for Cheshire and Sullivan Counties***

Kim McCracken will be our District Conservationist for Cheshire and Sullivan Counties, starting work in the Walpole office on July 2. Kim has a broad natural resources background and brings the experience of teaching and on-the-ground natural resources research to the DC position.

Kim grew up in Bradford, PA and attended Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, graduating with a BS degree in Environmental Science. She then moved to New Hampshire for her graduate work at the University of New Hampshire (MS Soil Science; Ph. D. Natural Resources). Following graduation, she spent three years as an Assistant Professor of Biology and Natural Resources Management at Grand Valley State University in Michigan where she taught a variety of courses including soil science, ecosystem ecology, environmental pollution and introduction to natural resources.

She has been an Earth Team Volunteer with the NH NRCS for several years. Her professional interests include water quality management, carbon sequestration and education/outreach.

Kim's hobbies include camping, a variety of outdoor sports for all seasons, gardening, and cooking. She's very happy to be returning to her adopted home state of New Hampshire, and will be living in Walpole with her 120 pound chocolate lab Indigo.

Let's give Kim a warm New Hampshire welcome as she begins her work here with us at NRCS.

**You can contact Kim at her office in Walpole at (603) 756-2978 Ext. 13 or at kmccracken@nh.usda.gov.**

## New Student Trainee in Concord

Jessica Bailey is Concord's new Soil Conservationist Student Trainee. Jess is a native New Hampshirite, majoring in Forestry (minor in Wetland Ecology) at UNH. Jess has surveying experience, and has worked with both AutoCADD and ArcView. Jess also was a US Park Service Volunteer in Utah where she worked on a study tracking invasive species with GPS technology. Jess's hobbies are outdoor activities such as backpacking, camping, skiing, and hiking.

Jess will be working primarily in Merrimack and Belknap Counties this summer with Mike Lynch and Bill Hoey, but also cross-training as much as possible. Welcome aboard Jess!

## New Student Trainee in Epping

Kate Nicholas started with NRCS in June as a Soil Conservationist Student Trainee. She will be supervised by Rick Ellsmore and primarily working in the Rockingham, Strafford, and Carroll Counties.

Kate grew up in Boulder, Colorado and came to New Hampshire as a student at UNH. She is currently an Environmental Conservation Science Major (with a Minor in Soil Science). She has experience working for the UNH Composting facility and with an organic gardening operation..

Kate just returned from the "Semester at Sea" program, where she observed natural resource concerns all over the world, such as overpopulation in India, disappearing rainforest in Brazil, and grazing pressures in Kenya.

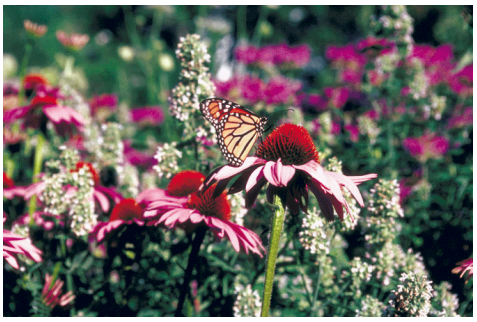
Kate has hobbies such as camping, trail running, hiking, and kayaking, and was a key member of the UNH Soil Judging team in 2000.

We are lucky to have a new NRCSer like Kate on staff!

## Local Agriculture — Did you Know?

- NH has over 30 farmer markets offering the colorful and tasty bounty of local farms and gardens all season long from all counties.
- It's been estimated that our food travels over 1,300 miles before it is consumed.
- Buying locally grown food supports local jobs. Farmers are able to earn a greater share of the consumer dollar making it easier to sustain their farms, regardless of encroachment and rising costs.
- Local agriculture is good for your community. Taxes from agricultural development yield a community net earning of about $0.70 cents on the dollar, while residental development costs a community an average $1.25 per dollar earned.
- Stronger regional food systems create greater food security and sustainability. As the global market changes the way producers must grow and sell their goods, supporting the local farmer will help ensure we can feed ourselves in a healthy and sustainable way.

**Reprinted from NH Agriculture in the Classroom "Food for Thought" May/June 2001**



**Have Plans for Your Yard This Year?**

**Think about doing some Backyard Conservation!**

**Call 1-888-LANDCARE for a free booklet to get you started, or visit www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov.**

***The mission of the Natural Resources Conservation Service is to provide leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources and environment.***

*For more information on NRCS in New Hampshire, or to contact the office nearest you, visit www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov or call our State Office at the number listed below.*

*For questions, comments, suggestions, or to submit articles for future issues of this newsletter, please contact Laura Morton, Public Affairs Specialist NH-NRCS at lmorton@nh.nrcs.usda.gov or at (603) 868-7581.*



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